

NEWS BRIEFING

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARTHUR SYLVESTER

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The Pentagon

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5:34 P.M.

October 29, 1962

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MR. SYLVESTER: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to make the following statement. It will be complete in itself and I will not respond to any further questions on it.

"Surveillance flights over Cuba were made today. All aircraft returned safely. The readout from the pictures taken will not be completed until tomorrow."

That completes it.

QUESTION: What time tomorrow, Arthur?

MR. SYLVESTER: We will have to wait and see.

QUESTION: Is there some peculiar reason why these will not be ready until tomorrow? Obviously in a war situation you would have them in an hour or so.

MR. SYLVESTER: There is no peculiar reason.

QUESTION: Art, on another subject of the proposed pools for the ships in Guantanamo which you have described as postponed indefinitely is that now cancelled?

MR. SYLVESTER: I would say it is still postponed indefinitely.

QUESTION: Will flights continue until such time as the U. N. team takes over?

MR. SYLVESTER: I wouldn't make any assumptions that they won't.

QUESTION: What is the status, Art, of the blockade? Is it still in force and still continuing?

MR. SYLVESTER: The ships are still in position.

QUESTION: I hate to go back to the 25 tired old Russian ships, but can you give us any idea -- yesterday you said the picture had changed markedly that a number of ships had diverted. What is the picture today?

MR. SYLVESTER: I would assume that any ships of any interest in the quarantine have disappeared from the scene.

QUESTION: Were surveillance flights made yesterday?

MR. SYLVESTER: We don't discuss what time they are made, or when they aren't made. I am depending on this statement: "Surveillance flights over Cuba were made today" -- This, of course, is part of the continuing surveillance.

QUESTION: Is there any evidence whatsoever that there is any dismantling going on at these bases at this time?

MR. SYLVESTER: I can't go beyond the statement that I have here.

QUESTION: Do you have anything here on this report of a fire at the Atlas site out in Oklahoma earlier today?

MR. SYLVESTER: I can get it for you. I don't have anything here.

THE PRESS: Thank you.